

**Weekly Weather
Crop Report**

In cooperation with

Mississippi Department of
Agriculture and Commerce

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Week Ending July 16, 2006

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According to the National Agricultural Statistics Service in Mississippi, there were 6.3 days suitable for fieldwork for the **week ending Sunday, July 16, 2006**. Operators who have non-irrigated crops and have not received a general rain since planting are concerned that some crops are going to be lost. Insect pressure is starting to show more of a presence in crops. Many livestock producers are already predicting a shortage of hay this winter due to drought conditions. Soil moisture was rated 56 percent very short, 35 percent short, and 9 percent adequate.

Progress In Percentages						Conditions in Percentages				
Item	Event	This Week	Last Week	2005	5-Yr Avg	Very Poor	Poor	Fair	Good	Excellent
Corn	Silked	100	100	99	98	16	22	27	31	4
	Dough	87	80	76	80					
	Dent	60	36	33	43					
	Silage Harvested	46	20	29	24					
Cotton	Squaring	98	94	98	95	7	17	27	41	8
	Setting Bolls	67	57	63	67					
Peanuts	Pegging	70	34	--	--	1	14	55	25	5
Rice	Heading	32	11	18	25	1	5	15	64	15
Sorghum	Heading	94	86	90	85	3	4	35	57	1
	Turning Color	43	16	10	19					
Soybeans	Blooming	97	95	95	84	8	18	28	41	5
	Setting Pods	85	79	78	68					
	Turning Color	5	--	--	--					
Hay (Warm Season)	Harvested	62	52	64	58	16	30	30	24	0
Sweetpotatoes	Planted	90	85	98	97	1	20	31	42	6
Watermelons	Harvested	90	75	60	64	37	22	35	6	0
Blueberries						0	13	17	66	4
Cattle						8	22	39	28	3
Pasture						20	40	29	11	0

County Agent Comments

“Very dry conditions exist over most of the county. Ponds are drying up and cattle are being moved or sold as a result of no water and short grass. Hay production is down 60 percent at this time. The corn is denting. Most corn has small, sparsely filled ears. Beans are blooming but will not retain pods unless rain comes soon. There are some aphid problems on cotton. Widely scattered showers brought limited relief to a few areas.”

— Ed Williams, Oktibbeha

“Things are about as dry as they were here during the summer of 2000. July is half over and regular rains haven't started yet. Some spots have received isolated showers while most have received none. Considering the lack of rain since last fall, I'm surprised things don't look even worse. Very few cool season grasses produced hay this spring. Only a very small amount of summer grass has been harvested for hay. Most surplus hay from previous years was used up last winter.”

— Clayton Rouse, Lamar

“The drought continues! Cattle producers are culling the low end of cow herds and marketing calves earlier than normal to try to hang on to cow herds. Some producers are selling out! Many producers have been haying cows for over three weeks now. Hay supplies are very short. Pastures are dry and short.”

— Tommy Bishop, Jasper

“Dry weather and hot temperatures are taking a toll on all of our crops and growers. Non-irrigated crops are in a poor condition.”

— Don Respons, Bolivar

“We continue to get spotty showers but still need a good general rain. Most of the early planted group IV's are all done and will be cut in a couple of weeks. Yields will be low.”

— Mack Young, Quitman

“Dry conditions are limiting the growth of corn and soybeans. Pastures and hay fields are short of grass. Cotton is growing well, but needs some moisture.”

— Melvin Oatis, Benton

“We are drier than I have ever seen. Most beans and cotton could be saved if we could get 2 inches of rain!”

— Stephen R. Winters, Grenada

“Continued dry weather has forced some livestock producers to start feeding hay due to inadequate pasture grass. We are in desperate need of rain.”

— Patrick Poindexter, Alcorn

“Insecticides are being applied to some cotton fields to control cotton aphids and tarnished plant bugs. Foliar diseases are being observed in cotton. Soybeans continue to be stressed from a lack of moisture and high temperatures.”

— Jay Phelps, Pontotoc

“Most crops are burning up. There have been some scattered showers in the north and east parts of the county but corn is only 3/4 filled out and small. We need a good rain. Some applications of fungicide have been applied on beans. Insect pressure is picking up.”

— Tim Needham, Tippah

“Conditions are hot and dry, with very few isolated showers. Irrigation systems are running wide-open.”

— Jerry Singleton, Leflore

“This is the first time that I have ever seen cotton blooming out the top by the fourth of July!!!!”

— Robert Martin, Sharkey

“I remember 1954 being hotter, drier than this one. No other year comes to mind except for 1980. We didn't make much of a crop either year. Irrigated acres are up to 50% or better in the county now. This alone is a blessing for the irrigated producers.”

— Tommy Baird, Sunflower

“While a few small areas have received adequate rainfall, the bulk of the county is nearing serious drought conditions.”

— Ernest Flint, Attala

“Conditions are very dry.”

— Kay Emmons, Montgomery

“Some corn grain fields are being cut for silage due to lack of kernel fill and the need for supplemental feeding in dry pastures. Most corn fields are in dire condition. Sweet potatoes have a higher mortality than I've ever seen. With low soil moisture, shape and yield will be adversely affected.”

— Dr. Bill Burdine, Chickasaw

“We have almost completed the corn silage harvest and the yields are down. We will test and see how the dry weather has affected the quality of this crop.”

— Bill Maily, Hinds

“Most of the county is in need of rain ”

— Mark Gillie, Greene

“We haven't been this dry since 2000. Grass for grazing and hay is hard to find. Many producers are selling calves and some cows. Stockyards are having big sale numbers for this time of year. Many water sources are drying up. We can pretty much count on a hay shortage for this winter. Peaches, watermelons and commercial vegetable crops have been hit hard by the drought.”

— Chuck Grantham, Jones

“The lack of rainfall continues to be a problem for all producers. Some beef cattle producers are feeding hay due to a lack of grazing. Several days of measurable rainfall is needed to help pastures show improved grazing.”

— Florieda K. Mason, Perry

“Conditions are still extremely dry.”

— Judith Breland, Stone

“Conditions continue to be very dry. There have been some isolated showers, but most seem to be too little and too late. Beef producers are showing concern that they may not have hay for the winter of 06/07. Some herds are being sold.”

— Allen McReynolds, Wayne

Additional comments appear on the Internet at: <http://www.nass.usda.gov/ms/cwyears.htm>

This publication is part of a series that first began in 1872 and has been continuously published since. In Mississippi, this report is a result of the cooperative efforts of:

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Weather Summary from July 10, 2006 to July 16, 2006 for Mississippi

District/Station	Air Temperature					Precipitation				4 Inch Soil Temperature			Avg Pan Evap
	Max	Min	Avg	Norm	DFN	One Week	DFN	Rain Days	Four Weeks	Max	Min	Avg	
1. Upper Delta													
Cleveland	100	72	86	82	+4	0.00	-0.78	0	3.47				
Lambert	98	70	84			1.15	+0.30	1	3.16				
Tunica	97	72	85	82	+3	0.14	-0.74	2	0.99				
Extreme/Average	100	70	85	82	+3	0.58	-0.39	1	3.32				
2. North-Central													
Calhoun City	97	67	82	80	+2	0.24	-0.74	2	0.73				
Hickory Flat	95	64	80	79	+1	0.46	-0.59	1	2.74				
Independence	94	62	81	80	+1	2.03	+1.12	1	5.83				
Oxford	97	68	83	80	+3	0.03	-0.89	2	1.30				
Extreme/Average	97	62	82	80	+2	1.03	+0.03	2	5.83				
3. Northeast													
Booneville	97	69	83	79	+4	0.12	-0.84	2	2.48				
Iuka				77		0.00	-1.05	0	1.80				
Ripley	97	66	82	79	+3	0.05	-1.07	2	1.32				
Tupelo	97	74	85			0.07		1	2.19				
Verona	96	60	83	81	+2	0.60	-0.20	1	4.35				
Extreme/Average	97	60	83	80	+3	0.08	-0.90	2	1.32				
4. Lower Delta													
Moorhead	99	72	84	82	+2	0.00	-1.16	0	2.34				
Rolling Fork	100	71	85	82	+3	0.05	-0.91	1	2.94				
Stoneville	100	69	85	83	+2	0.63	-0.30	1	3.08				
Yazoo City	98	73	85	82	+3	0.00	-0.98	0	1.40				
Extreme/Average	100	69	85	83	+2	0.23	-0.82	1					
5. Central													
Canton				82		0.00	-0.84	0	2.38				
Carthage	100	66	84	81	+3	0.25	-0.79	1	1.63				
Eupora	97	67	82	80	+2	0.01	-0.95	1	3.15				
Lexington	97	67	82	80	+2	0.80	-0.08	1	3.52				
Extreme/Average	100	66	82	81	+1	0.35	-0.70	1	3.34				
6. East-Central													
Aberdeen	101	70	85	80	+5	0.00	-0.91	0	0.94				
Houston	99	65	82	79	+3	0.00	-0.95	0	0.83				
Philadelphia				81		0.00	-1.12	0	1.33				
State University	99	69	85	81	+4	1.35	+0.31	1	3.02				
Extreme/Average	101	65	84	81	+3	0.45	-0.60	0	1.60				
7. Southwest													
Crystal Springs	99	70	83	82	+1	0.69	-0.32	1	1.49				
Natchez	97	71	83	82	+1	0.00	-0.91	0	2.70				
Oakley	98	65	82	81	+1	0.27	-0.57	1	4.15				
Vicksburg	97	74	84			0.00		0	2.56				
Extreme/Average	99	65	83	81	+2	0.35	-0.70	1	1.49				
8. South-Central													
Collins	97	71	83	81	+2	0.00	-1.12	0	2.73				
Columbia	97	71	84	82	+2	0.00	-1.28	0	2.51				
Tylertown	97	69	82	81	+1	0.27	-1.12	1	4.45				
Extreme/Average	97	69	84	81	+3	0.00	-1.21	0	2.51				
9. Southeast													
Beaumont													
Hattiesburg	97	70	83	82	+1	0.00	-1.30	0	4.43				
Laurel	99	69	84	81	+3	0.06	-1.21	1	1.66				
Newton	98	66	82	80	+2	0.44	-0.68	2	1.62				
Extreme/Average	99	66	84	81	+3	0.06	-1.20	1	1.66				
10.Coastal													
Gulfport				83		0.44	-1.17	1	3.15				
Picayune				81		0.00	-1.54	0	1.00				
Extreme/Average				82									
State	101	60	83	81	+2	0.34	-0.73	1	2.58				

DFN = Departure from Normal.